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AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders
Adult/Transition Services and Resources

Date and Time of Meeting: December 15, 2016
3:45 p.m.

Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services/ATAP
3427 Goni Rd., #102
Carson City, NV 89706

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Scott Harrington called the meeting for the Adult/Transition Services and Resources Subcommittee to order at 3:47 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Harrington, Renee Portnell (3:56 to end), Ralph Sacrison, Janice John, Steven Cohen,

Members Absent: Korri Ward, Ruth Sainsbury

Staff Present: Carol Reitz

A quorum was declared.

II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Mr. Cohen informed the Subcommittee that the Nevada System of Higher Ed had completed summer-long work on a resolution supporting access for guests with a disability and with a presentation that was made to the Board of Regents. He will keep tabs on it.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that there is a case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the Free Appropriate Public Education Law which is part of the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). There are organizations that have a presence on the case which includes the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Center for Independent Living, and Easter Seals. The subject student has autism. Mr. Cohen suggested revisiting the subject of the sensitivity training and develop a list of stakeholders.

Dr. Harrington asked Mr. Cohen who would develop the stakeholder list. Mr. Cohen said the school districts and the court systems should be on the list. Dr. Harrington asked Mr. Cohen to write up the list of stakeholders and it will be discussed during the next meeting. Mr. Cohen will send the list to Ms. Reitz prior to the next meeting.

Ms. Portnell informed the Subcommittee that there are several bills related to autism. She pointed out the following bills:

- AB20 is helping individuals obtain employment. Ms. John added that with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, it has already been outlined as to what states can do. They are figuring out the guidelines since it has been out for the last two years by the Department of Labor.
- AB64 is a standard high school diploma for pupils with disabilities so they can get better jobs. Ms. John said that if they get the diplomas, they will be eligible for Pell grants.
- AB7 is the no child left behind to every child succeeds act.

Ms. Portnell added that there were a few other bills regarding Medicaid. She will continue to track them for the Subcommittee.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the November 10, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Cohen made a motion to accept the minutes as they were written. Ms. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Presentation by Lisa Bonnie on Self-Selecting a Residential Setting

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

V. Review List of Resources and Employers that Hire Persons with ASD

Dr. Harrington shared an article that was written in the Costco magazine by a journalist that works for the Seattle Times. He said it was good for employers to read that people with disabilities can make a meaningful contribution despite how significant their disability. Mr. Sacrison said he plans to share it with the support group.

Dr. Harrington informed the Subcommittee that he wrote an email to the author, Richard Seven, and thanked him. He said the gentleman is a nice man and appreciated the article. Ms. John said she received a lot of positive feedback since it supports customized employment and will share it with employers.

Dr. Harrington said he always looks to find where businesses may be able to employ people with disabilities so they may become better businesses. He added there are five resources that were referenced within the article that includes the Institute for Community Inclusion.

VI. Review and Prioritize the Goals of the Subcommittee

Dr. Harrington reported that they have had meetings with the larger group in which they submitted a letter for integrated employment that he and Ms. John worked on. The letter is related to the goals and objectives that they have.

Dr. Harrington read and reported on the following objectives:

- 2.3: Promote and legislatively advocate for policies and funding which deliver self-directed, person-centered services for adults.
- 2.3.1: Collaborate with the Governor’s Task Force on Integrated Employment to advocate for and ensure that the employment needs and choices of Nevadans with ASD are identified, understood and addressed.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that he did not make it to the last meeting but he is being provided updates. He reported it’s a slow process and the focus is on rate reimbursement rather than integrated employment. The folks are from sheltered work settings. He will speak up and let them know that the focus should be on integrated employment.
- 2.3.2: Promote entrepreneurial enterprise and business creation opportunities for Nevadans with ASD to Governor’s Office of Economic Development, local and state agencies, private for-profit and nonprofit entities.
 - Dr. Harrington reported they have done work on this objective through the Subcommittee.
- 2.3.3: Collaborate with ADSD, DHCFP, CSPD providers and recipients to establish policies and systems which enable Nevadans with disabilities, including ASD, to self-select their own residential setting.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that this will be addressed with Lisa Bonie’s presentation in January.
- 2.3.4: Compile and adopt service standards for adults over the age of 21, living with ASD. Standards may cover issues such as eligibility for services, treatment, higher education and employment assistance housing options and supports, and family supports.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that they have addressed this by having VocRehab and ADSD present to the Subcommittee.

- 2.3.5: Advocate for public policies and funding allocations that support service standard implementation.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that they will work on this objective early next year.
- 2.4: Promote and legislatively advocate for policies and funding that adequately meets the needs of individuals with ASD living in rural and frontier areas of the state.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that with legislation coming up, they can support this objective by testifying at upcoming legislative meetings. He added that Sierra Behavior Solutions are in the process of developing telehealth services which will begin by early next year.
- 2.4.1: Research, identify and advocate for alternative approaches to providing ASD services in rural communities.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that they need to share what they do and improve on what they are doing.
- 2.4.2: Advocate for real parity in ASD services provided through school districts.
 - Dr. Harrington reported there was discussion within the Autism Commission meetings on getting BCBAs into the school districts.
- 2.4.3: Advocate with NEIS and ATAP for funding to support travel expenses for families when accessing services unavailable in local communities.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that he was unaware of any updates.
- 2.4.4: Coordinate with state service providers to utilize mobile clinics and tele-medicine for treatment, services and supports.
 - Dr. Harrington reported that they are moving towards telehealth services and will provide information as he receives it.

Mr. Cohen added that he has the contact information for the superintendent for Clark County School District if they wanted to start the conversation on allowing BCBAs into the school district. Ms. Reitz informed the Subcommittee that a letter has been submitted to the Department of Education, Governor's Office and a few other entities to have the discussion.

Dr. Harrington suggested that if there are schools that are currently allowing BCBAs to work with students during school hours, they should follow those examples. He said if there are parents that have positive relationships with administration in certain schools, they should share those stories. He asked how they can find out who those parents are so they can share the positive examples. He added there were currently families that are doing this.

VII. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee agreed that their next meeting will be on Thursday, January 19th at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Sacrison made a motion to accept the date and time. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. **Public Comment** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Ms. Portnell informed the Subcommittee that the Red Cross does disaster training called FAST (Functional Assessment Service Team). They are getting a group of people together that help those with disabilities in disaster situations.

Dr. Harrington told Ms. Portnell to send the contact information for the Red Cross to Steven so he may include them on his stakeholders list for the sensitivity training. Ms. Portnell said she volunteered to help the Red Cross train their staff and provide the resources to them.

IX. **Adjournment**

Dr. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.